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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
US to stop producing pennies
p4

ON SCREEN
Switch 2 is coming soon!
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HOW TO
Make a stack of s'mores
p24

June 6, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 268 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

THE WILD & WIGGLY WORLD OF JELLYFISH

Discover these magnificent creatures under the sea p12

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill that established Medicare and Medicaid, which provide healthcare to millions of Americans.

Mike Johnson speaks after the bill was passed.

A very long bill

The US Capitol

Many people consider the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was 5,593 pages long, to be the longest bill passed by Congress in recent history. The bill provided help for Americans during the Covid-19 pandemic and was signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 27, 2020.

House Republicans pass megabill

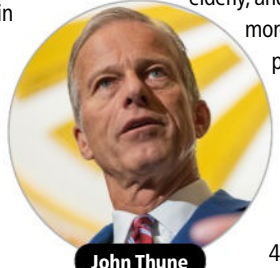
The US House of Representatives passed a massive tax and spending bill that supports President Donald Trump's vision for his second term. The House is one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws and controls spending.

What happened?

The legislation is referred to as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act." After weeks of writing and revising the megabill, House members debated all day on May 21 and into the next morning. At 6:54 a.m. on May 22, they voted 215–214 to pass it. Trump is a Republican, and every vote in favor of the bill came from Republicans, who narrowly control the House. Two Republicans joined all Democrats in opposing the legislation, and one Republican chose not to vote.

What is in the bill?

At the heart of the bill, which is more than 1,000 pages long, are about $3.8 trillion in tax cuts for people and businesses. These reductions are an extension of tax laws Trump passed in 2017, during his first term as President. The bill would also lower taxes some people pay at the state and local level and eliminate federal taxes on income that workers receive as tips or overtime. Several clean energy incentives would be eliminated by the bill, including a $7,500 tax credit for buying an electric car. The bill also calls for about $70 billion to address illegal immigration (people entering the US without permission), including $46.5 billion to build a wall along the Mexican border. In addition, the plan includes a $150 billion increase in military spending.


John Thune

What else was in the bill?

Millions of Americans who receive help with healthcare and food would be affected. The bill imposes a strict work requirement of 80 hours a month for certain people receiving Medicaid (government healthcare program for low-income, elderly, and disabled people) and gives states more power to remove people from the program. Many of the people who are removed from Medicaid would also be blocked from receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which provide food support to about 42 million low-income Americans. The law would also make changes to a government-run program called the Health Insurance Marketplace, which millions of Americans use to get health coverage. Changes to work requirements would save the government an estimated $280 billion.

How did people react?

Trump congratulated Republicans on passing the legislation, which Mike Johnson, the Speaker (leader) of the House, said "gets Americans back to winning again." Democrats, however, said the bill would give the biggest tax breaks to wealthy Americans while harming people who are already struggling financially. "It would make that American dream harder to reach for millions," said Hakeem Jeffries, the House Democratic leader. The Congressional Budget Office, a government department that advises Congress and is not affiliated with either political party, said the bill could cause up to 14 million Americans to lose their health insurance and about 3 million to lose their SNAP benefits.

What will happen next?

The bill has gone to the Senate (other half of Congress) for approval. If it passes there, it will go to Trump for his signature before becoming law. But there is no timeline for when the Senate will begin debating it, and Democrats as well as some Republicans have cited strong objections to the package. John Thune, the Republican who leads the Senate, said, "The Senate will have its imprint on it." If the bill is changed there, it will have to return to the House for approval. Republican leaders said they want both chambers of Congress to pass the bill and send it to Trump by July 4.

Humanitarian aid arrives in Gaza

For the first time in more than 11 weeks, aid trucks carrying food and supplies rolled into Gaza starting on May 21. About 90 trucks carried flour, baby food, nutrition supplements, and medical supplies, provided by the United Nations (UN). Gaza, a territory in the Middle East, has been cut off from aid due to a war between Israel and Hamas, a terrorist group that is based in and controls Gaza.

Since the war began in 2023, Gaza's population of about 2.3 million people has become increasingly at risk of famine (extreme lack of food). The UN, the US, and other nations have urged Israel, which controls most of the entrances to Gaza and had been blocking many of them, to allow aid in. Once Israel agreed, the trucks were delayed for days while officials worked to find a route that avoided thieves.

The UN said Israel will continue to let in about 100 aid trucks a day. But Cindy McCain, head of the UN's World Food Program, said that does not meet the need. Negotiations to end the war are ongoing, but no agreement has been reached.

A truck enters Gaza.

UNTOLD WONDERS
Experts estimate that about 91% of marine creatures have not yet been discovered and more than 80% of the ocean is yet to be explored.

The United Nations is working to protect marine life all over the world.

World Oceans Day observed

On June 8, people around the globe will observe World Oceans Day, an annual event hosted by the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 countries) to inspire action to conserve the oceans. This year's theme is "Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us."

June 8 was designated World Oceans Day in 2008. This year the event will adopt a new format that includes a flag-raising ceremony in France to mark what the UN calls "a moment of global unity and momentum for the ocean." The UN Ocean Conference, where people will discuss ways to protect oceans and marine resources, will then take place from June 9–13.

The idea for World Oceans Day was first proposed in 1992 by marine law expert Judith Swan to recognize the vital role oceans play in sustaining life on Earth. Oceans provide a home for millions of species, help regulate the climate, and produce oxygen. More than 3 billion people rely on the oceans for food and income.

Oceans are facing many serious threats, however. Climate change is warming the waters, affecting ecosystems and bringing on stronger storms. Plastic waste is also increasing, further endangering marine life.

To mark the day this year, museums around the US are hosting events. At the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, for example, visitors can speak with scientists, engage with interactive exhibits, and learn about coral habitat restoration. The UN also sponsored an ocean-themed photography competition. The results will be announced at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-OceanPhotos on June 8.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

BEING BLUE

The streets of Landerneau, France, turned blue and white as 3,076 people descended on the town and set a record for the largest gathering of people in Smurf costumes. The day was "Smurftastic," one fan said on social media.

The event

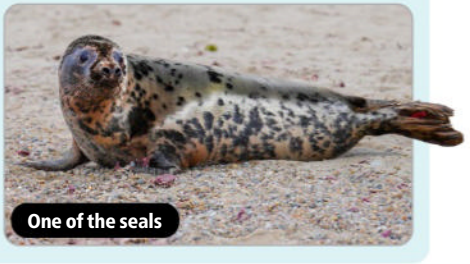
The stamps

HONORING SERVICE

The US Postal Service (USPS) released three new stamps honoring the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, which have been in service for 250 years. The stamps are "a lasting symbol of courage, of commitment, and of country," said Jeffery Adams, a USPS spokesman and Army veteran.

A HAPPY HOMECOMING

Six gray seals were released into the ocean off the coast of Rhode Island after being rescued and rehabilitated at a Mystic Aquarium facility. The animals had been found tangled in fishing gear and debris earlier this year. Hundreds of people cheered as they headed for the water. "It was absolutely amazing," an onlooker said.



One of the seals

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); DISNEY; U.S. MINT; NINTENDO; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); DOD SCREENSHOT; MYSTIC AQUARIUM; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

AMAZING METALS
Pennies are made mostly of zinc, with an outer layer of copper that gives them their bronze color.

A US penny

History of the penny

The first penny produced by the US in 1792 depicted a woman with flowing hair symbolizing liberty (above). In 1857, the design was changed to feature a flying eagle on one side and a wreath on the other. In 1909, a new design showed an image of Abraham Lincoln, the first US President to appear on a coin.

US to end production of pennies

The US government has announced it is ending its production of pennies. The decision comes three months after President Donald Trump called for the Treasury Department, which oversees the US Mint, to stop putting the coins into circulation.

What is happening?

In May, the US Mint, which creates America's coins, ordered its last set of pennies to be made. There are still about 114 billion pennies in circulation, and people will be able to continue using them as a form of payment.

Why is this happening?

For many years, lawmakers have criticized the penny as being costly to produce. Each coin is worth one cent but costs nearly four cents to make. Some people have also said the penny's monetary value is too small to be useful. People leave them in jars at home because their value is so low. In addition, pennies can be difficult to use. Parking meters and vending machines that still accept coins often don't accept pennies. The decision is expected to result in a savings of $56 million a year for the US government.

How did people react?

The decision had bipartisan (agreement from Democrats and Republicans) support in Congress (the branch of government that makes laws). Some economic experts supported the move but emphasized that the US must plan for an increase in the demand for nickels. Each nickel costs 13.8 cents to make, much more than a penny. If the US Mint must make more nickels, the $56 million a year saved from not making pennies would be erased. "It's incumbent on the Treasury to come up with a cheaper way to make the nickel," said Mark Weller of Americans for Common Cents, a group that advocated to keep the penny.

What will happen next?

As the number of pennies in circulation decreases, many businesses will have to change what they charge for goods by rounding the price up or down to be payable in an increment of five cents. For example, an item that costs 97 cents could sell for 95 cents or $1. However, items available for purchase by credit or debit card, which make up more than 80% of payments in the US, can continue to be sold at their exact price.

WORD OF THE WEEK

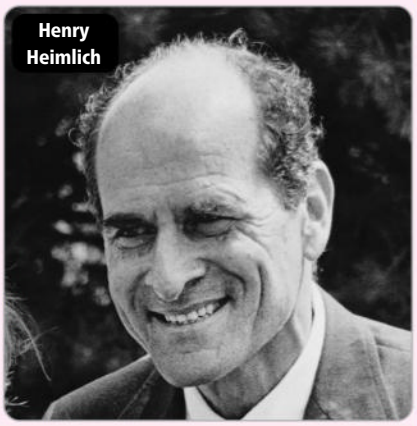
MANEUVER

A maneuver is a movement or series of moves that involve skill. It originated from the French, where it means "work by hand," and its roots lie in the Latin manus, **meaning "hand," since it was used to describe manual labor. The same Latin root can be found in other words involving hands, including "manicure" and "manuscript."**

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

June 1, 1974
First-aid technique is publicized

On June 1, 1974, Henry Heimlich, a doctor from Ohio, published his findings about a first-aid technique he devised to stop a person from choking. Within weeks, the technique, which includes performing abdominal thrusts on a choking victim, was credited with saving lives. It became known as the Heimlich maneuver, and today it is believed to have saved as many as 100,000 lives.


Henry Heimlich

Joe Biden

Former President has illness

Joe Biden, the 46th US President, revealed on May 18 that he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and that the disease has spread to his bones. (Cancer is a disease caused by cells that grow out of control.) Biden, age 82, is reviewing treatment options with his doctors and is reported to be feeling optimistic about managing the illness. "Thank you for lifting us up with love and support," he said on social media.

A Colorado bookstore

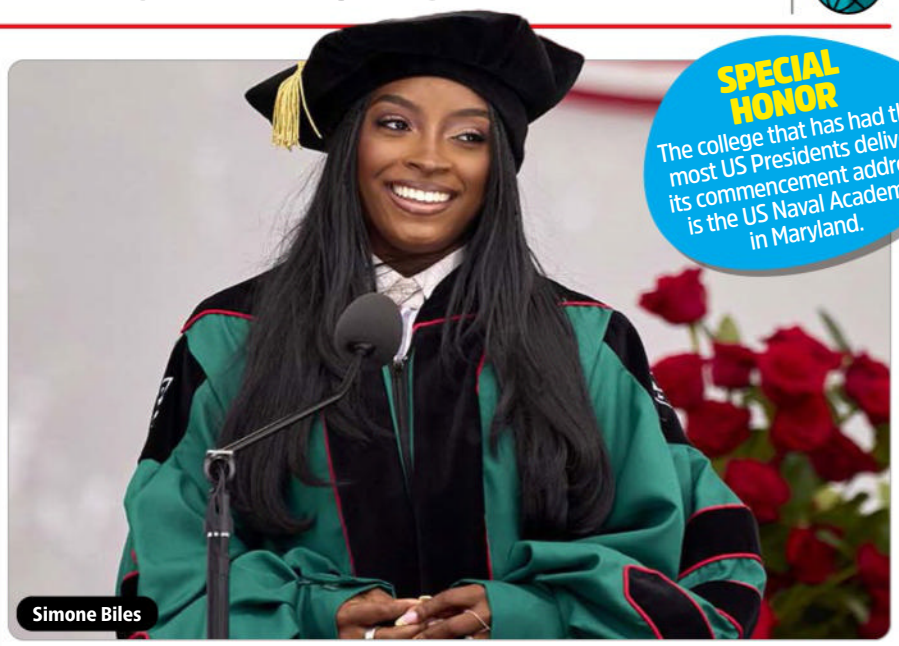
Number of bookstores increases

More than 430 independent bookstores opened in 2024, the American Booksellers Association (ABA) reported. There are now 2,863 US bookstores that aren't part of a chain retailer. Although Amazon is the top book retailer, the number of independently owned stores has more than doubled since 2016. "I don't think any of us would have predicted this," said Allison Hill of the ABA.

Sesame Street

SesameStreetgetsnewhome

Netflix announced that it has acquired the rights to *Sesame Street*, the award-winning children's TV series that premiered in 1969 on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service). Previously, the show had been airing on HBO Max. The 56th season of *Sesame Street* will feature the return of popular segments like Elmo's World. The show will continue to be available for free on PBS, Netflix said.


Simone Biles

SPECIAL HONOR
The college that has had the most US Presidents deliver its commencement address is the US Naval Academy in Maryland.

Leaders speak at college graduations

In May, public figures, including athletes and authors, gave speeches at college graduation ceremonies across the US. Commencement speeches are part of an American tradition meant to inspire graduates as they begin their adult lives.

The custom of commencement speeches dates to graduation ceremonies held at Harvard University in Massachusetts in the 1600s, with students and professors speaking. By the late 1800s, prominent speakers addressed graduates. In recent years, entertainers have also delivered commencement speeches.

On May 12, Simone Biles, the world's most decorated gymnast, spoke to graduates at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. The university also awarded Biles an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, which recognizes individuals for their contributions to society. In her speech, Biles encouraged students to embrace their own path and to keep going even when things don't go as planned. "No one's success is a straight line," she said.

Kermit the Frog

One of the year's most highly anticipated speakers was Kermit the Frog, who addressed graduates at the University of Maryland on May 22. Jim Henson (1936–1990) created the Muppet when he was a student at the university. Kermit, voiced by Matt Vogel, advised students to be brave and stay connected. "Life is better when we leap together," he said.

Other speakers included President Donald Trump, who addressed graduates at the University of Alabama on May 1 and at the US Military Academy in West Point, New York, on May 24. Award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson delivered a commencement speech at Kenyon College in Ohio, urging students to find people they can "change the world with." At Howard University in Washington, DC, actor and literacy advocate LeVar Burton spoke to the university's largest-ever graduating class. He encouraged them to be proud of their roots. "Let the universe know you are here," he said.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Florida dog caught on camera riding jet ski in river" ***FOX 13 Tampa Bay***

WHITNEY CURTIS/WASHU; GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: US MINT; US MONEY RESERVE; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Around the world

Kazuyuki Ishihara in his winning garden

London, UK
Tea garden wins famous flower show

Kazuyuki Ishihara has won Garden of the Year at the Chelsea Flower Show. First held in 1913, the event judges gardens based on factors including originality, visual impact, and attention to detail. Ishihara won for his creation "Cha No Niwa—Japanese Tea Garden." He said the site, which features a traditional tea house amid trees, flowers, moss, and stones placed at different levels, was inspired by the Japanese art of flower arranging.

At work on a banana farm

Bocas del Toro, Panama
Banana company fires workers

Chiquita, a leading worldwide banana company, announced that it was firing thousands of workers in Panama. The workers have been on strike (refusing to work as a form of protest) since April 28, opposing a new national law that would lower the amount of money they would be paid after retirement. The company, which has reportedly fired about 5,000 of its 6,500 workers in Panama, said it has lost at least $75 million because of the strikes.

Florence, Italy

Italy
Passport rules changed

The government has approved a law making it harder to get Italian passports. Previously, anyone could be a citizen if they had an ancestor who lived in Italy after 1861. Now applicants must prove they have at least one parent or grandparent who was born in Italy. Officials say the new rules will prevent "abuse" of the passports by foreigners who use them only to travel.

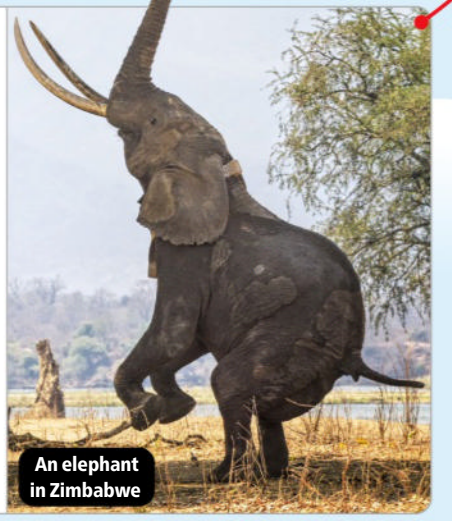
Breda, The Netherlands
Sustainable city recognized

Breda has become the first Dutch city to earn National Park City status. This means it has shown a commitment to being environmentally friendly and offering green spaces, such as tiny forests and urban gardens created by residents and schools. Other cities with the status include Chattanooga, Tennessee; London, UK; and Adelaide, Australia.

One of Breda's green spaces

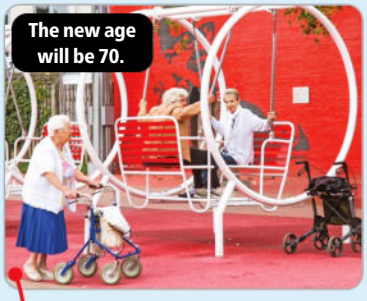
Zimbabwe
Tracking elephants

Wildlife authorities are using GPS collars to track elephants and alert people when they approach. The program aims to prevent dangerous encounters between humans and elephants. These have increased in recent years as climate change has led to food and water shortages that cause the animals to raid villages and crops. When a herd is approaching, officials post warnings in WhatsApp groups and go door-to-door on bikes to inform nearby residents.


An elephant in Zimbabwe

AP; MUSEUM OF EASTERN BOHEMIA; GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY; NSS; ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK

Around the world


The new age will be 70.

Denmark
Retirement age to increase

On May 22, the Danish government passed a new law to increase the age at which people are allowed to retire (stop working). For anyone in Denmark who was born after December 31, 1970, the retirement age will be 70—the highest in any European country. Labor unions, which represent workers, called the decision unfair.

Ein al-Fijeh

Damascus, Syria
Low rainfall leads to water shortages

The head of the Damascus City Water Supply Authority said the city is experiencing its lowest rainfall levels since 1956. The local water spring, Ein al-Fijeh, is usually refilled by rainwater and melting snow from nearby mountains, but it is now very dry. Officials warned that residents will need to use less water because of the shortages this year. They advised people to use restraint when showering, cleaning, and washing dishes.

The ceremony

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Country marks remembrance day

On May 20, about 2,000 people attended a ceremony to observe Cambodia's Day of Remembrance. The event honors the 1.7 million people who died during a genocide (deliberate attempt to destroy a specific group of people) between 1975 and 1979. During the ceremony, student actors from a local art school put on a performance. "We must not let go or forget this bitter past," said Hun Manet, Cambodia's prime minister.

Czech Republic
Treasure found

In the Krkonoše Mountains, two hikers found an aluminum box full of treasure. The box contained gold bracelets, cigar cases, a powder compact, a key, a comb, and 598 gold coins, which a coin expert valued at about $360,000. There are many theories about the treasure's origins. Because the most recent coin is from 1921, a time of financial crisis, some experts think its owner may have stashed the gold for safekeeping.

Some of the treasure

A reader with this year's book

Australia
Book event promotes reading

More than 2 million children read the same book at the same time on May 21 to celebrate National Simultaneous Storytime. The event is held every year with a different book to encourage kids and their families to read together. This year, people read The Truck Cat by Deborah Frenkel and Danny Snell in more than 9,000 homes, schools, libraries, and hospitals across Australia.

Should children be allowed to use AI?

Some people say the technology may be great but simply isn't safe for kids.

What you need to know

- **Artificial intelligence (AI) is a computer system that can learn from experience and perform tasks that usually require human intelligence.**
- **Generative AI creates text or images based on a prompt. For example, if it is asked to write a story about a dog, it will generate one.**
- **AI tools like ChatGPT and Google Gemini require users to be age 13 or older. But in a recent study, 39% of parents of kids ages 5 to 8 said their children had used AI for school.**

AI is developing fast, and while the possibilities are exciting, there are some valid concerns about the technology. UNICEF, a branch of the United Nations that works to protect children worldwide, said AI comes with risks for kids. For example, it can provide incorrect information or seem very humanlike, which is confusing for kids who might think they're talking to a real person. But UNICEF also said AI has the potential to provide a personalized learning experience, help kids develop their creativity and artistic skills, and support young people who have learning or physical differences. What do you think? Should children be allowed to use AI?

Yes—it's not going anywhere

AI is here to stay, and children need to know how to use it responsibly. The sooner they start using it—with adult guidance—the better they will understand its benefits and risks. Many adults use AI in the workplace to make certain tasks easier, such as writing an email or planning a meeting, and children should be able to do the same for their schoolwork. AI can help them get started on research or explain the steps of a math problem, just like a teacher does in class. But AI isn't only for serious purposes. It can also be used for fun, like creating humorous stories or silly artwork, and there's nothing wrong with that.

No—it's too powerful

Generative AI is still a fairly new, evolving technology. Children shouldn't use it until it has been fully tested and developed. AI is so powerful and fast that children who are just having fun with it can be exposed to upsetting or scary content. That can happen quickly, before adults have a chance to intervene. And AI is known to provide misleading, false, or biased information. A study at Purdue University in Indiana found that ChatGPT gave wrong information 52% of the time. And experts involved in the study didn't catch the wrong answers 39% of the time. If they didn't catch mistakes, how can children be expected to?

YES Three reasons children should be allowed to use AI

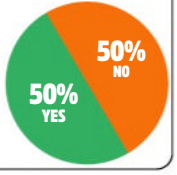
1. **AI is a part of modern life, and young people need to learn how to use it safely and responsibly.**
2. **Just as adults use AI at work, children should be able to use it for school.**
3. **AI is more than a practical tool. It can also be used for fun, creative activities that shouldn't be off-limits to kids.**

NO Three reasons children should not be allowed to use AI

1. **The technology is still new, and people don't know enough about it. We shouldn't let kids use it until we know it's safe.**
2. **AI is a powerful tool that can sometimes show children upsetting content.**
3. **It can provide false, misleading, or incorrect information that children can't be expected to spot.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if texting is better than calling. In a rare 50/50 vote, you were evenly split between typing out a message and talking on the phone.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think children should be allowed to use AI or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

ALAMY

The art of the game

Takashi Murakami brings his signature style to Major League Baseball.

Japanese artist Takashi Murakami is known for his vibrant artwork featuring cartoon-like characters. This spring, he teamed up with Major League Baseball (MLB) for a special collection during the MLB Tokyo Series, which started the 2025 season with games in Japan between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago Cubs. The collection featuring Murakami's colorful flowers on jerseys, hats, and jackets has been a hit.

Pitching at the Tokyo Dome

Murakami grew up in Tokyo and was inspired by manga and anime from a young age. After earning a fine arts degree from Tokyo National University, he developed the "Superflat" style, which blends traditional Japanese techniques with contemporary pop culture. His work has been shown globally, including at the Venice Biennale, an art exhibition in Italy. He has also created lines for fashion brands like Vans.

Working with the Dodgers is especially meaningful for Murakami. He said his 2007 exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles introduced his work to American audiences and that the city is "my second hometown." To honor him, the Dodgers invited him to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at some of their games, including on Japanese Heritage Night.

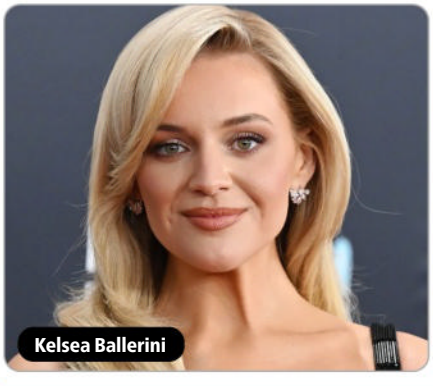
Wearing a piece from his collection, Murakami also threw out the first pitch at an exhibition game between the Dodgers and the Yomiuri Giants, played at the Tokyo Dome. Reflecting on the moment afterward, he told *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Memories of playing catch with my father when I was around 10 years old came flooding back."

Takashi Murakami

TWO TALENTS
In 2019, Takashi Murakami teamed up with Billie Eilish to create an anime music video for her song "You Should See Me in a Crown."

Making her mark

Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is having a standout year, balancing her role as a judge on *The Voice* with completing a North American tour for her fifth studio album, *Patterns*. Ballerini has been a rising star since her debut single, "Love Me Like You Mean It," hit number one in 2015. *Patterns* was written with an all-female team, part of her mission to make country music more inclusive. She also uses her platform for mental health awareness, donating a portion of her concert profits to mental health initiatives and raising almost $223,000.


Kelsea Ballerini

GETTY IMAGES

Jeff Joseph

An education honor

Jeff Joseph, the principal of Dominion Trail Elementary School in Ashburn, Virginia, has been named *The Washington Post*'s 2025 Principal of the Year. With it, he received a $7,500 award for his leadership. Joseph joined the school in 2000 as a teacher and has been the principal for 12 years. He said that in his time leading the school of nearly 600 students, the needs of families have grown. The school sends food home to about 100 families weekly. His approach is based on kindness and listening to students. "When [kids] feel heard," Joseph told *The Post*, "they feel respected."

OVERHEARD

16

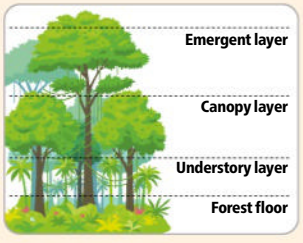
"[I hope] it can be an exciting thing for young players to want to be a defender too."

Naomi Girma, defender for the San Diego Wave FC, on being the first million-dollar player in women's soccer

An illustration of the Biomass probe

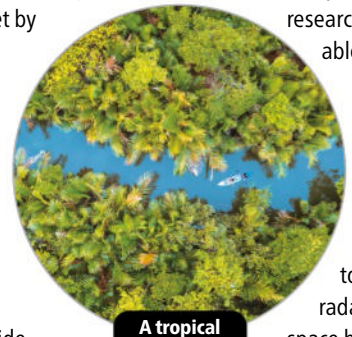
The layers of a rainforest

A rainforest has four layers. In the top, or emergent, layer, trees reach nearly 200 feet into the sunlight. Below is the canopy, a dense layer of leaves that blocks light and rain from the warm, shady understory and the dark forest floor.



Mapping the world's rainforests

Nearly a third of the Earth's land area is covered by forests, and they are vital for life on the planet. Providing habitats for more than 80% of the world's land-based species, forests also protect our planet by slowing down the process of climate change—but scientists aren't sure by how much. Now a new space mission could be about to find out how much carbon is stored by Earth's trees and how this is changing as forests are cut down.


A tropical forest in Asia

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and store it in their trunks, roots, and leaves. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that traps the Sun's heat in the Earth's atmosphere, causing temperatures to rise and contributing to climate change. Exactly how much carbon trees remove from the air is very difficult to measure, but researchers think they might be able to do it from space.

The new mission involves a space probe named Biomass. The probe will carry radar equipment that can scan through the top of the forest, all the way down to the ground. This type of radar has never been sent to space before, but its design allows it to measure the trunks, branches, and stems of trees, even in the world's thickest and most remote rainforests.

The scans this probe makes will then be used to create detailed 3D maps of areas in Africa, Asia, and South America. The lead scientist, professor Shaun Quegan from Sheffield University in the UK, explained that the scans will allow researchers to weigh the carbon content of the world's tropical forests from space and, crucially, figure out how much these are changing over time. This will help scientists evaluate the health of the forests and predict what will happen in the future.

Biomass launched from French Guiana, in South America, on April 29. It flew 414 miles up and began orbiting the Earth, which it will continue to do for the next five years. Expert teams will begin reviewing the data Biomass collects before it becomes available to the wider scientific community in January 2026.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Manchester, Vermont

One of the natural highlights in Manchester, Vermont, is Mount Equinox, which at 3,855 feet is the tallest peak in the Taconic Mountain range. Visitors can hike or drive to its top. Black bears, bobcats, porcupines, eastern small-footed bats, foxes, beavers, and coyotes live in the area. The Battenkill River runs through Manchester and attracts fly-fishing enthusiasts who catch and release the river's plentiful trout. The American Museum of Fly Fishing and the historic Hildene mansion, the home of President Abraham Lincoln's son Robert, are also located in Manchester.

A porcupine

FUN FACT
Young people have something in common with young goats: They are both called "kids."

A young sheep (left) and a goat

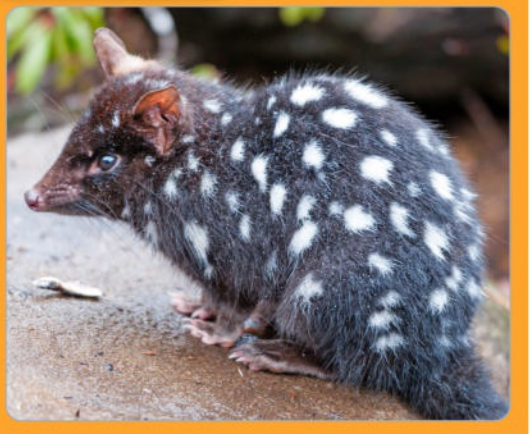
Goats outsmart sheep and alpacas

Scientists from Aberystwyth University in the UK have found that goats are more intelligent and have a better memory than sheep and alpacas. This suggests that farm animals are smarter than people think.

The scientists conducted two studies. In one, they set up eight buckets, two of which contained food. Once the animals searched and found the food, researchers tested their ability to remember these locations. Upon returning to the area, the goats found the food the fastest. The sheep made more mistakes, while the alpacas were slower.

Next, the researchers tested the animals' problem-solving skills. The task involved finding food underneath cups. The goats did very well again, but the sheep and alpacas found it hard to keep track of the moving cups. Researcher Megan Quail said the goats were the best at understanding that objects still exist, even if they're hidden. She said this could be a sign that they have more environmental awareness than sheep or alpacas. That might mean goats could benefit from living in environments where they are able to explore and solve problems.

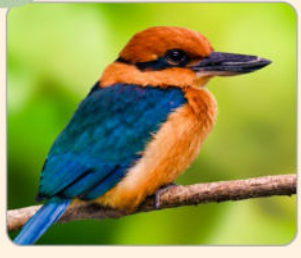
Animal of the week: Eastern quoll



Fifteen eastern quolls were released into the wild in Australia after disappearing from the country's mainland for more than 60 years. Foxes ate many of these endangered marsupials in the past, so experts will monitor the quolls and any predators.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 2 to 3 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Now mostly the island of Tasmania
- **SIZE:** 12 to 17 inches long
- **DIET:** Insects, some small animals, and plants
- **FUN FACT:** Each quoll builds up to five dens and may use a different one every day.

Good week / Bad week



Guam kingfishers

For the first time in 37 years, Guam kingfishers, also known as sihek, have laid eggs in the wild. Several months after introducing some of the birds to Palmyra Atoll, a small Pacific island, experts spotted eggs in at least three nests.

Coral reefs

A report found that about 84% of the world's coral reefs have been affected by rising ocean temperatures. Warmer water has caused mass bleaching, in which coral become stressed and lose the tiny organisms that provide color and nutrients.

Ask an expert: "How do some frogs have poison in them?" Ellie, 8, California

Ron Magill
Wildlife expert,
Zoo Miami

Poison dart frogs are among the frogs that have poison in their skin to help defend against predators. They get that poison from the specific ants they eat in the wild. Many poisonous frogs have bright colors, warning potential predators that they may get sick if they try to eat the frog.

A strawberry poison dart frog

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. **Find out more about the Zoo Miami at** zoomiami.org.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); ESA/ATG MEDIALAB

Shimmery wonders

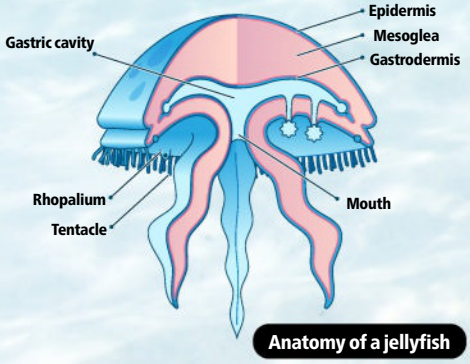
Boneless and brainless, jellyfish have survived for millions of years.

Jellyfish are magnificent marine creatures that can be found in many shapes, colors, and sizes in waters all around the world.

A purple-striped jellyfish

What is a jellyfish?

For more than 500 million years, jellyfish have lived in the Earth's oceans, making them older than dinosaurs. Despite being called jellyfish, due to their jelly-like substance, they are not actually fish, which have a backbone. (Many experts now refer to jellyfish as sea jellies.) As both predator and prey, they are a key part of the underwater world. They help keep creatures like plankton from increasing rapidly and harming marine life. They are also food for animals like sea turtles. Jellyfish can live 12,000 feet undersea or in shallow coastal waters.



Anatomy of a jellyfish

How their bodies work

Jellyfish have no brain, heart, bones, or blood. They are made of about 95% water. Their soft bodies—shaped like bells, with tentacles branching out below—have three layers: the outer layer, or the epidermis; a middle elastic layer called mesoglea; and a gastrodermis layer that lines the gut. They sense the world around them with the help of structures on their bells called rhopalium. They eat plankton, crabs, fish, and other jellyfish through a hole in their bells. Some jellyfish live for hours, although the average lifespan is a year. One type, the immortal jellyfish, can potentially live forever.

DID YOU KNOW?
There are several names for a group of jellyfish, including bloom, smack, and swarm.

EYES ON ME
The Tripedalia maipoensis, discovered a few years ago, is a type of box jellyfish with 24 eyes.

South American sea nettles have long, spiraling arms that help them capture prey.

Stingers under the sea

Jellyfish are well known for their ability to sting. They use their powerful venom to stun and catch prey. Two of their cousins, sea anemones and corals, also sting. Some animals have defense mechanisms against the stings. Sea turtles, for instance, have shells and thick skin to protect them. Clownfish have a mucus layer that shields them from an anemone's stinging tentacles. Each year, about 150 million people are stung by jellyfish worldwide. The vast majority of stings, however, are not dangerous to humans.

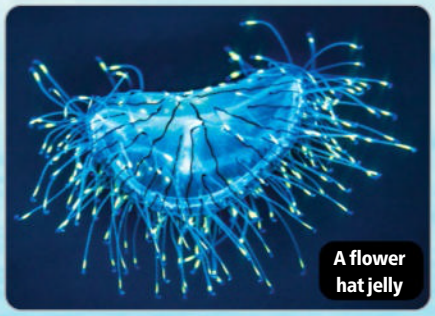
A clownfish peeking out of a magnificent sea anemone

GETTY IMAGES (6); COURTESY OF NEWPORT AQUARIUM

of the ocean

SAVE THE DATE! World Oceans Day is a global celebration taking place on June 8. Find out more on page 3.

Orange cup coral



A flower hat jelly

Big, small, and bright

There is tremendous variety among jellyfish. One of the largest species is the lion's mane jelly. It can be found off the coasts of Canada, Japan, and Antarctica, among other places. Its bell can grow as big as 7 to 8 feet in diameter, and in some parts of the world, its tentacles can extend up to 100 feet. That's longer than a blue whale. One of the smallest is a type of box jellyfish called the Irukandji jelly, which measures about 0.3 inches wide. The most venomous marine animal in the world is the Australian box jellyfish, which has tentacles that can grow up to 10 feet long. Other jellyfish, such as the cross jelly and crystal jelly, are bioluminescent, which means they produce their own light.

Blue blubber jellyfish

The future of jellyfish

Like many animals, jellyfish are victims of plastic pollution. Interestingly, they benefit from one effect of climate change: warmer waters, which helps them reproduce. Some experts warn that this is not good for the environment, however, since jellies could become the dominant species, overtaking fish. Others disagree with this theory. Visiting a US aquarium that cares for jellyfish is one way to find out more about them. Newport Aquarium in Kentucky, for example, has a new jellyfish exhibit featuring blue blubber jellyfish and other species. Jellies can also be observed in the waters of several national and state parks. Although researchers have identified at least 2,000 types of jellyfish, scientists believe there could be thousands more species yet to be discovered.

Scientists studied chimpanzees like these.

DID YOU KNOW?
Humans and chimpanzees share a common ancestor that lived about 6 to 8 million years ago.

Study explores how humans heal

Other mammals heal from wounds more than twice as quickly as humans, a new study has found. Researchers believe this is because humans evolved (changed very slowly over millions of years) to have skin rather than fur.

Akiko Matsumoto-Oda, an expert in primates at the University of the Ryukyus in Japan, began the study after noticing how quickly baboons healed in the wild. She and her team set out to compare the healing rates of humans to those of primates and rodents.

The team also studied mice.

To gather data on humans, the team studied 24 patients who were having skin tumors (abnormal masses of tissue) removed. To measure healing on chimpanzees, which are among humans' closest animal relatives, the researchers watched five captive chimps at an animal sanctuary. They also studied other animals including olive baboons, Sykes' monkeys, vervet monkeys, mice, and rats.

The humans in the study regrew skin at an average rate of about 0.25 millimeters per day. That was much slower than the animals, which healed at about 0.62 millimeters per day. Matsumoto-Oda had expected this. She was surprised, however, to see that all the animals healed at about the same rate, which meant that humans were the only ones who were different.

The researchers believe furry animals recover faster because their bodies are covered in hair follicles (tube-like structures on the skin that grow hair). Each follicle holds special cells called stem cells, which can renew themselves and also become different cell types, including blood, bone, and muscle cells. Stem cells can make new hair and grow new skin.

Humans, on the other hand, are covered in millions of sweat glands, which cool down our bodies and brains in hot environments or when we're active. Humans have 10 times more sweat glands than animals. The ability to regulate their body temperature gave early humans an evolutionary advantage because it allowed them to use their brains to figure out how to survive and their bodies to hunt or build shelters.

To gain this advantage, humans sacrificed a faster healing time, according to Matsumoto-Oda and her team. They suggested that humans may have made up for that by caring for one another and helping the wounded heal and stay alive.

Early sunscreen

A model of a Neanderthal

Many scientists have puzzled over why Neanderthals (our closest extinct relatives) vanished about 40,000 years ago, while humans evolved and thrived. A new study found that early humans may have outlasted Neanderthals partly by finding ways to protect themselves from unusually strong solar activity.

Earth is surrounded by a magnetic field that protects us from harmful energy from the Sun and space. Occasionally, a shift in the field allows more of that energy through. This most recently took place about 41,000 years ago, just before Neanderthals went extinct. The study found evidence that during this time, humans shielded themselves by wearing clothing, which was a new practice, and using caves and ochre (a mineral with sunscreen-like qualities).

Using science to bowl the perfect strike

A strike in bowling means that all the pins are knocked down on the first roll of the ball. It's not easy to do, and bowlers work hard to perfect their technique so they can roll as many of them as possible. Now they may be getting help from scientists, who used computer modeling and a 300-year-old math principle to determine the best technique.

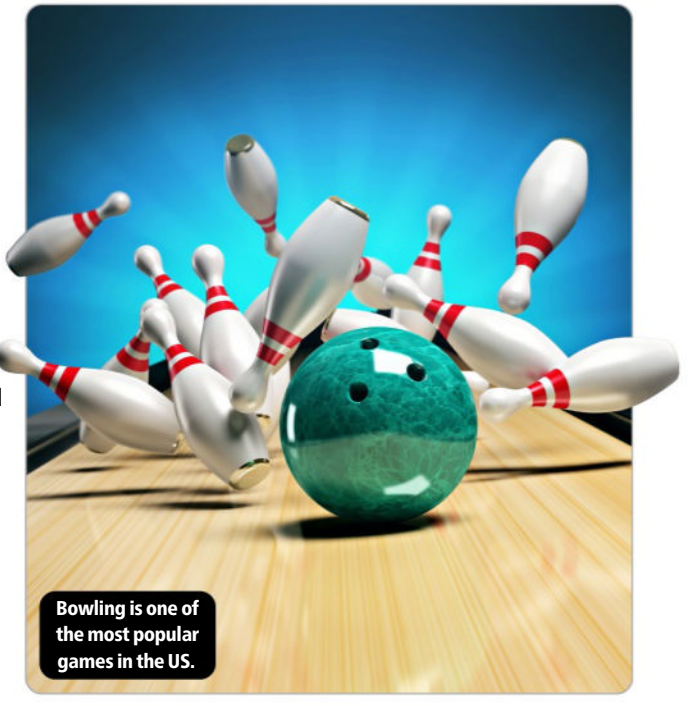
BIG BONUS
Bowling a strike gives players a major advantage, earning them up to 30 extra points for that turn.

The research team was led by scientists at Princeton University in New Jersey and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They started with Euler's Formula—which was established by scientist Leonhard Euler in the 1700s—to determine how the ball would move in a lane. Then they added other factors, including the oil used to make the lane smooth and the small nicks and marks on the surface of a bowling ball.

A standard bowling lane usually has 39 narrow wooden boards and 10 pins. The team calculated that the best strategy is to release the ball at the 28th board from the left side of the lane. Rather than rolling straight down the lane, the ball should travel very slightly to the right.

When the bowler releases the ball, it should also be spinning at 416 turns per minute. Under these conditions, the scientists said the ball would take a curved path and hit the pins in the perfect spot to achieve a strike.

The researchers said their calculations could help professional players, as well as everyday bowlers who play the game for fun.



Bowling is one of the most popular games in the US.

The bitter bracket mushroom

Experts find super bitter flavor

Researchers have discovered what may be the most bitter-tasting substance: a chemical called oligoporin D. It is so bitter that even a small pinch of it could be detected in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

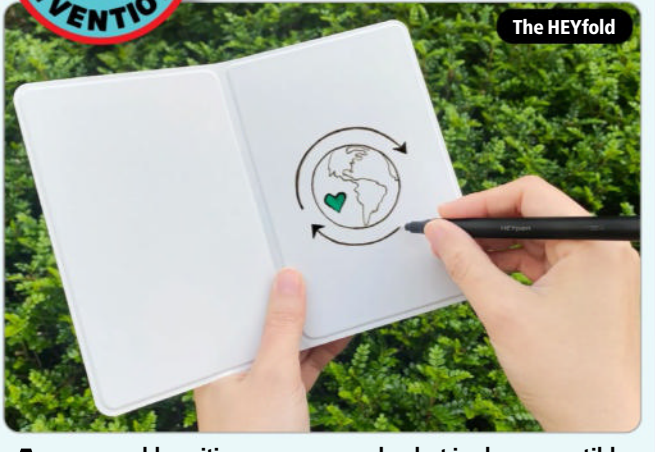
Humans have about 25 taste receptors that tell us when a substance is bitter. This is important because it can warn us not to eat things that are poisonous.

But not all bitter things are dangerous, which raises questions about the purpose of bitter flavors. Scientists wanting to learn more about this studied the European bitter bracket mushroom and found three new bitter-tasting chemicals in it, including oligoporin D.

The team applied the chemicals to taste receptors created in a lab. All three activated at least one of the bitterness receptors. It took only a very small amount of oligoporin D to do so, however, indicating how extremely bitter it is.

AMAZING INVENTION

An e-notebook that can be reused



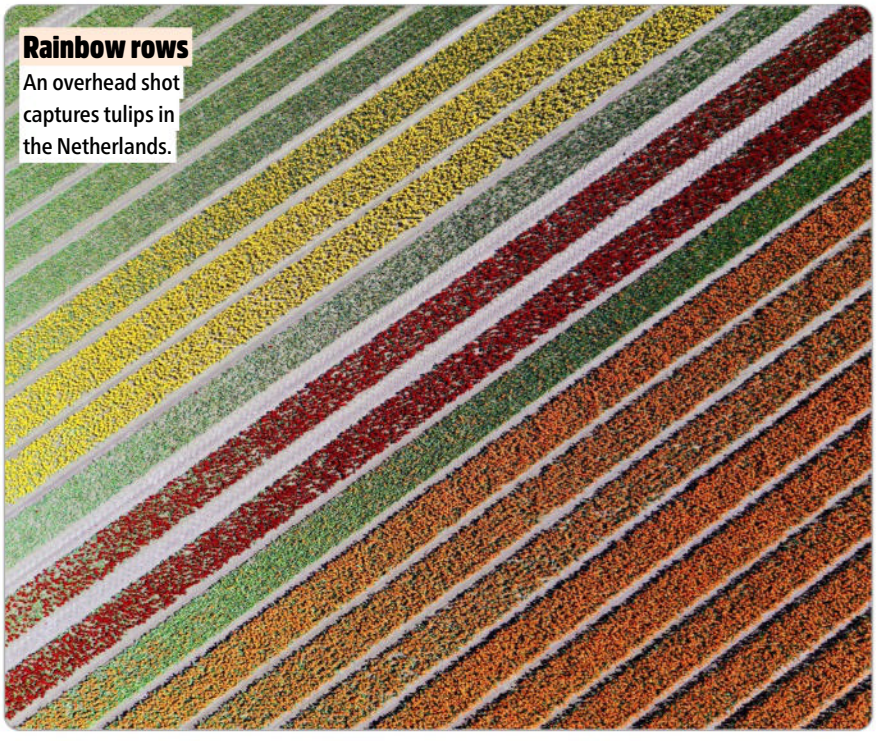
The HEYfold

A new reusable writing device combines the digital and paper worlds. The HEYfold Notebook is eco-friendly and looks like a slim notepad. Users can write or draw, erase, and start again without paper.

The HEYfold, which comes in two sizes, includes a special marker but is also compatible with regular pens. Note takers write on the special smudge-free coating, which dries instantly and erases cleanly. An app lets them save their words and doodles by taking digital pictures and syncing them to a personal device.

EARTH.COM; GETTY IMAGES; HEYFOLD; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); KYOTO UNIVERSITY WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER KUMAMOTO SANCTUARY

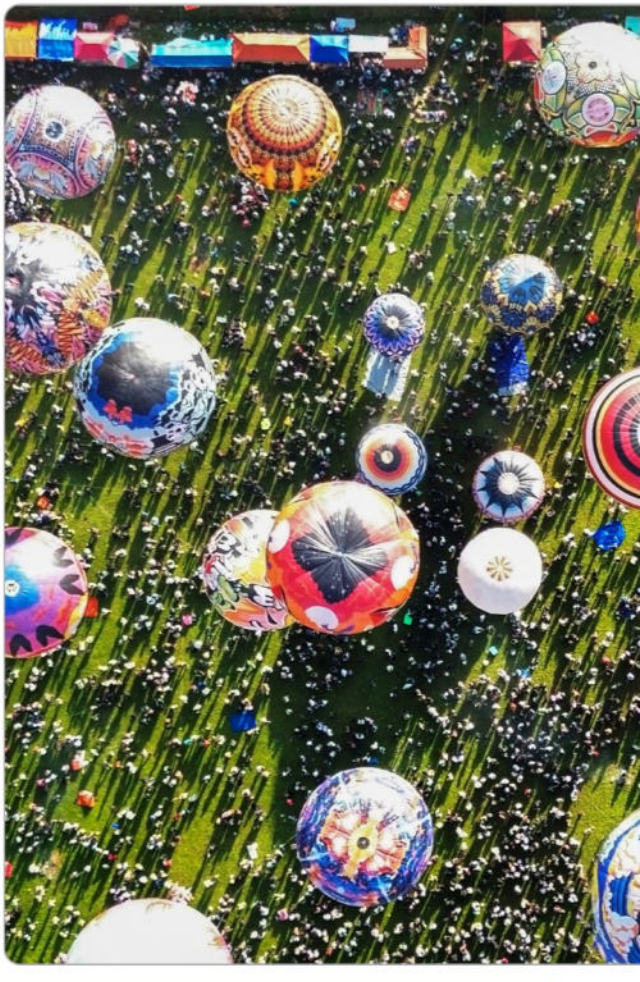
Photos of the week



Rainbow rows
An overhead shot captures tulips in the Netherlands.

Mirror image
A mandarin duck swims through a pond in the UK.

High interest
An intricate design adorns the ceiling of the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC.



GETTY IMAGES (4); REUTERS

Photos of the week

And they're off!
Two canine competitors take part in the Corgi Derby race in Scotland.

Top flight
Hot-air balloons at a festival in Indonesia are seen from above.

Delicate dance
A ballerina performs at a celebration in the UK.

DRAWING A CROWD
More than 7 million people watched this year's Indy 500 on TV, the most since 2008.

Alex Palou

Race-day tradition

For nearly 80 years, the song "Back Home Again in Indiana" has been performed before the start of the Indy 500. Jim Cornelison (above), an Indiana University graduate, has been singing it since 2017. He also sings the national anthem at Chicago Blackhawks games.

New champ at the Indy 500

On May 25, drivers competed in the 109th Indianapolis 500, an important race in the IndyCar Series, an elite level of American championship car racing. The race, which is also known as the Indy 500, takes place at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indiana. It consists of 200 laps around a 2.5-mile track, making the entire race about 500 miles long.

The winner of the race was Spanish driver Alex Palou of Chip Ganassi Racing. It was his first Indy 500 victory, and he is also the first driver from his country to win it. Palou was the IndyCar series champion in 2024, 2023, and 2021 and has now won five of the first six races this season.

Marcus Ericsson

On race day, there were 33 drivers in the field, including eight former Indy 500 winners. During a qualifying race on May 18, rookie Robert Shwartzman, a driver from Israel who is part of Prema Racing, had the fastest four-lap average speed (232.790 mph). He earned the pole position, the best spot at the starting line. American driver Josef Newgarden, who was attempting to become the first to win three consecutive Indy 500s, started in the 32nd position after his team, Team Penske, was penalized for making illegal modifications to their cars.

The race began under challenging conditions, with cold temperatures and a delayed start due to rain. As the competition progressed, Palou maintained a strategic approach, conserving fuel and avoiding trouble. Shwartzman's race ended when he crashed during pit stop on lap 87.

With 14 laps remaining, Palou made a decisive move, overtaking Marcus Ericsson of Andretti Global to take the lead, which he held for the rest of the race. Due to a crash in the final lap, drivers finished under yellow flag (go slow) conditions. Ericsson came in second, but after post-race inspections, he was demoted to 31st place due to illegal modifications of his car. As a result, David Malukas of A.J. Foyt Enterprises moved up to second place and Pato O'Ward of Arrow McLaren moved to third. Newgarden, meanwhile, had mechanical problems and finished in 22nd place.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

CLUB SOCCER

NJ/NY Gotham FC of the NWSL (National Women's Soccer League) won the first-ever Concacaf W Champions Cup, a competition between top women's soccer clubs from North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. In the May 24 final, Gotham beat the Mexican club UANL Tigres, 1–0. With the win, they qualified for the 2026 FIFA Women's Champions Cup and 2028 FIFA Women's Club World Cup.

NJ/NY Gotham FC

BASKETBALL

On May 21, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was named the NBA's Most Valuable Player for the 2024–25 season. It is the first time he has won the award.

HOCKEY

In the final of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championship on May 25, Team USA beat Switzerland, 1–0, in overtime to earn their first world title since 1933. Tage Thompson scored the goal.

EXCITING GROWTH
On June 9, the PWHL will hold an expansion draft for teams coming to two cities next season: Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, Canada.

Maddie Rooney of the Minnesota Frost holding the Walter Cup

Minnesota wins PWHL title

For the second year in a row, the Minnesota Frost are the PWHL (Professional Women's Hockey League) champions. On May 26, they defeated the Ottawa Charge, 2–1, in overtime of Game 4 of the finals, to go up 3–1 in the best-of-five-game series and win the Walter Cup, the championship trophy.

To get to the finals, both teams had beaten higher-seeded (ranked) opponents. The Frost, who were the fourth-seeded team, knocked out the second-seeded Toronto Sceptres, while the Charge, who were the third seed, eliminated the number one team, the Montreal Victoire.

The finals were remarkably competitive, and all four games went to overtime and ended with scores of 2–1. The Charge won Game 1, but the Frost bounced back in Game 2, due in large part to a strong performance by goaltender Maddie Rooney, who saved 37 of 38 shots. Britta Curl-Salemme scored the decisive goal in overtime.

Game 3, which the Frost also won, required three overtime periods. Rooney had 35 saves, while Ottawa goaltender Gwyneth Philips saved 45 of the 47 shots she faced. Minnesota's Katy Knoll scored the game winner. In Game 4, Minnesota's Kelly Pannek scored midway through the second period, and Ottawa's Tereza Vanisova tied things up in the third. Twelve minutes into the extra period, Liz Schepers emerged as the hero, netting the championship-winning goal. She also scored the winning goal in last year's finals.

Philips was named the Most Valuable Player of the postseason. She led all goaltenders with 1.23 goals against average and a .952 save percentage in her eight playoff starts.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Kelly Rose McCollough**

Team: **Nation's Capital Swim Club (NCAP)**

"My coach is nice and funny, and she always knows what to fix when we need help. She pays attention to everyone on the team and makes sure we know what we are doing. She pushes me at practice and meets but knows when we need to rest. She never loses her calm, even when kids get crazy! She is protective of her swimmers and one of my biggest cheerleaders. She is so caring, sweet, and attentive, and I wish she could stay my coach forever!" Addison, 10, Virginia

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

TJ Stottlemyre

AGE: 19 SPORT: BASEBALL
TEAM: CAL STATE FULLERTON

Born to play I pretty much grew up with a baseball bat in my hand. It's the first thing I learned to do sports-wise, and I stuck with it. Meeting my friends to play is what I did for fun. I'm a big competitor, so my favorite thing about baseball is the competition it brings every day.

Squad pride Cal State Fullerton is a historic program and has earned all the accolades. My biggest accomplishment is getting to be on this team.

Top influences I model my game after New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor, but my biggest role model has been my dad, who was a Major League Baseball pitcher. He teaches me things about the mental side of the game that most people don't talk about.

Training plan We play four games a week and have practices, so we're pretty much on the field every day. There are really no optional days in baseball. It's a sport of discipline and dedication. If you put in the work, good things will happen.

Hitting prep Before I get in the batter's box, I take a deep breath to clear my mind.

Night shift I think you get a mental reset every day when your head hits your pillow and you can let go of what happened—good or bad—and look forward to the next day.

Looking ahead Being an All-American is probably my biggest goal, but I also want to continue to play hard and be on a winning team. Most college baseball players wants to get to the next level, too, so that's definitely another goal.

GETTY IMAGES (2); CAL STATE FULLERTON ATHLETICS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

GETTING CREATIVE
The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art has more than 8,500 illustrations in its permanent collection.

An endpaper from The Lion & the Mouse **by Jerry Pinkney**

Book illustrations on display

Open + Shut: Celebrating the Art of Endpapers **highlights the artwork that lines the inside of book covers.**

An exhibition at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Massachusetts, is taking a look at parts of books that some readers might flip past without noticing. *Open + Shut: Celebrating the Art of Endpapers* focuses on illustrated pages that are glued to the inside of book covers and make the first flippable page of a book. The exhibition features more than 50 pieces of endpaper artwork by more than 30 artists, and it highlights how endpapers connect to a book's story.

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

Open + Shut was put together by Bruce Handy, a journalist and children's book author, with help from museum staffers. He told *The Week Junior* that endpapers are "a really cool part" of the book-making process: "They can give you a hint of what's to come or set up a place—either literally or emotionally." Or, he said, they may include little jokes or act as a way to mark the beginning and end of a story. "They can be anything the artist wants them to be," Handy said.

The endpapers in the exhibition are framed and hung on the walls or displayed in cases in their book form. The selections include works from classic picture books, including *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey, as well as art from newer books, such as *When You Can Swim* by Jack Wong. That book's front and back endpapers show different scenes, but Handy was surprised to discover that Wong made them as a continuous single piece of art. "It was an extra visual treat," Handy said.

A goal of the show is for visitors to leave with a new way to appreciate books. "I hope they can look at their own and see how the endpapers add to them," Handy said. If they see books with blank endpapers, he added, "it might be fun to think, If I were going to do an illustration, what would it be?"

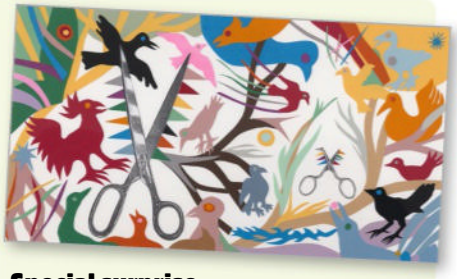
Artwork from Open + Shut

Dream scene

In *Julián Is a Mermaid*, written and illustrated by Jessica Love, a boy likes to imagine he becomes a mermaid whenever he goes swimming with his grandmother and other women. The back endpaper (above) illustrates Julián's fantasy.

Map of a world

A 1957 edition of *The World of Pooh* by A.A. Milne featured endpapers of a map by illustrator E. H. Shepard. It highlights areas that are important to the story, such as Pooh's house and the Hundred Acre Wood.



Special surprise

Author and illustrator Ashley Bryan used cut-paper artwork in his book *Beautiful Blackbird*. The endpapers feature birds from the story as well as the scissors he used to make them, which once belonged to his mother.

WOW! During its original run, *Phineas and Ferb* featured more than 450 original musical numbers.

Phineas and Ferb

Animated duo returns to TV

Phineas and Ferb, an animated series about a pair of inventive stepbrothers, aired from 2007 to 2015 and was a global hit. Over the years, the franchise grew to include two movies and several hour-long specials, and now the series is back for a brand-new fifth season. It premieres on the Disney Channel on June 5 at 8 p.m. ET. Episodes will be available to stream on Disney+ the day after they air.

The new season continues to follow Phineas and Ferb as they spend their summer days building wild inventions such as time machines, roller coasters, and giant robots. One person who is not impressed with them is their sister, Candace, who is always trying to get them in trouble with their mom. The boys also have a pet platypus, Perry, who is a secret agent trying to stop a mad scientist, Dr. Doofenshmirtz.

The series was created by Dan Povenmire and Jeff "Swampy" Marsh. Povenmire, who also voices Doofenshmirtz, told *The Week Junior* that *Phineas and Ferb* is "a show that celebrates what it's like to be a 9-year-old kid—full of imagination and energy." He and Marsh drew inspiration from their own childhood experiences making go-karts and building forts. Marsh said the show is set in the summer because the season is "a magic time for a kid. Growing up, that was the time to be creative."

Dan Povenmire (left) and Jeff "Swampy" Marsh

Povenmire also called the series "a celebration of creativity" and said watching Phineas and Ferb build things on the show has influenced what some fans choose to study. "When I talk at colleges," he told *The Week Junior*, "so many engineering students come up to me and tell me it's the reason they are interested in engineering."

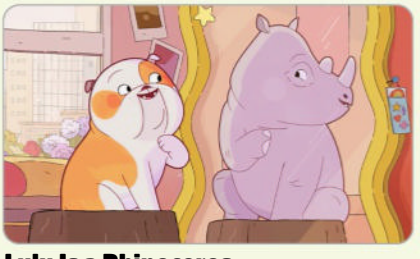
READER RECOMMENDS

Black-ish (Hulu or buy on other major platforms)
"I love this show, and it somewhat reflects my own experiences. It revolves around the Johnsons, a Black upper-middle-class family in Los Angeles with five kids, divorced parents, and nosy neighbors. The father is an advertising executive, while the mother is a doctor. The family navigates humorous challenges at school, work, and home—often with surprising outcomes. The show has a unique perspective on growing pains and will appeal to many families. My favorite episode is 'Juneteenth' from season four. It's truly iconic!" Kennedy, 9, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Banana Ball
(ESPN) (ESPN+) (Disney+)
The Savannah Bananas are a baseball team that puts a comical twist on the sport, combining traditional elements with dancing, acrobatic plays, and costumes. They are currently on tour, and many of their Friday and Saturday games will be streamed live, including one on June 7.



Lulu Is a Rhinoceros
(Apple TV+)
This new animated musical special is based on a children's book of the same name. It follows a spirited bulldog, Lulu (voiced by *Moana* star Auli'i Cravalho), who believes she is a rhinoceros inside. Others do not see her that way, but Lulu learns about embracing her true self.

America's Got Talent
(NBC)
The popular competition series, in which performers of all ages show off talents such as singing or magic, is back for season 20. Viewers vote online to determine which acts advance each week, and the winner earns a $1 million prize and their own show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

DISNEY (2); DISNEY/MICHAEL KIRCHHOFF; FANS FIRST ENTERTAINMENT/ANNA ROUCH; APPLE TV+; TRAE PATTON/NBC; ON LEFT PAGE: JERRY PINKNEY; ALAMY; JESSICA LOVE; E. H. SHEPARD, COURTESY OF PENGUIN YOUNG READERS GROUP, © 1957 E. P. DUTTON & CO., INC.; ASHLEY BRYAN

GAMING HISTORY
The first home console that Nintendo released in North America was the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1985.

Countdown to the Nintendo Switch 2

On June 5, after months of anticipation, the Nintendo Switch 2 will finally be released. The next-generation console, which had been in development since 2019, is already a big hit. Thanks to pre-orders, major retailers including GameStop, Target, and Walmart are already sold out of their first shipment.

The original Switch was released in 2017, and more than 160 million of those consoles have been sold since then. In April, Nintendo held Switch 2 preview events around the world, and journalists who tried the console said it's faster and more powerful, with much better graphics, than the original. The new console is bigger, too, and so are its Joy-Con controllers, which can also be used like a computer mouse. All Switch games will be playable on the Switch 2, with improved performance and clearer visuals, but games made just for the Switch 2 will not work on the Switch.

The Switch 2 is being released with Mario Kart World, a new spin on the classic racing title that will be one-part racer, one-part open-world adventure. Instead of jumping from race to race, gamers will be able to travel between tracks across a giant world filled with jungles, oceans, deserts, and cities.

On launch day, many updated versions of other hit games will be available for the Switch 2. They will include The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom and Sonic x Shadow Generations. In July, Nintendo will release a new Donkey Kong game, Donkey Kong Bananza. Other games on the way this year are Kirby Air Riders, featuring the famous pink puff hero; a Tears of the Kingdom prequel, Hyrule Warriors: Age of Imprisonment; and Drag x Drive, a game similar to wheelchair basketball. Players will be able to move each wheel of the chair using one Joy-Con controller in each hand.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

QUENTIN MANNING: DETECTIVE FOR JUSTICE

Major podcast platforms

In this storytelling series, middle schooler Quentin and his assistant Sam investigate mysteries around their school. Some of the cases they tackle involve missing trading cards, a strange smell coming from the band room, and a vanished mascot head.

UPDATE OF THE WEEK

POWERWASH SIMULATOR

Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and PC

This simulation game involves cleaning things with a powerful hose. Thanks to a recent update, now you can help the famous animated duo Wallace and Gromit by making Wallace's wacky inventions sparkle and Gromit's garden shine.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

OSCILLATORS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Oscillators

An oscillator is a device that produces sound by vibrating at a specific speed. This fun site has animated oscillators in various shapes. If you click on a shape, hold your mouse button, and drag the mouse around, you can change the shape's size and alter the frequency of its sound waves.

NINTENDO (5); BYURADIO; SQUAREENIX; GOOGLE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Encounter at Owl Rock

By Rucker Moses

(Nancy Paulsen Books)

Twins Oakley and Cypress are about to lose their home. They've been living with their grandparents outside Atlanta, Georgia, since their mom and dad mysteriously disappeared on a lake four years ago. Now a court has ordered their family to relocate because a corporation wants to buy all the land in the area for an unknown project. Upset by this news, Oakley, Cypress, and their friend Jaz decide to skateboard one last time at the town's beloved but abandoned waterpark. Cypress, a budding filmmaker, also plans to film a horror movie at the park. Just as they're getting started, a thunderstorm rolls in. Cypress wants to pause, but Oakley keeps going with the script. He attempts a stunt on Owl Rock, a massive granite formation in the park's center. When lightning strikes, Oakley vanishes. Cypress and Jaz frantically search the park but only find his skateboard. Although they don't know it at the time, Oakley has been abducted by an alien who needs his help. Will they be reunited and uncover the corporation's secret plans? The story, filled with humor and nonstop action, is told from the point of view of both Oakley and Cypress.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Harold Hayes Jr.

We spoke to one of the authors of the Book of the Week.

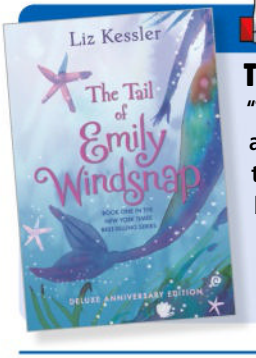
Rucker Moses is a pen name, right?
Yes. It's the pen name of my writing team, which consists of me, Craig S. Phillips, and Theo Gangi. We love to write adventures together.

What's the best writing advice you've received?
When I was young, my dad told me to put everything down on paper. Once you write something down, he said, your idea becomes a real, tangible thing.

How do you like to spend your free time?
I like to dabble in 3D printing. It's another creative form of expression.

If you could visit any planet, which one would you choose?
Saturn. I've always been obsessed with Saturn, especially now that it's been discovered to have so many moons and rings.

Do you believe in aliens?
I definitely do.



READER RECOMMENDS

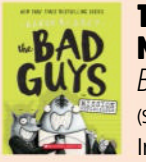
The Tail of Emily Windsnap *By Liz Kessler*

"This book follows Emily, a girl who discovers that she is part-human and part-mermaid. Her mother tells Emily that her father, whom she thought was dead, is actually stuck in an underwater mermaid jail because he married a human—Emily's mom. The adventure doesn't stop there! She decides to try to save her father and discovers a whole new world of mermaids just like her." Sophia, 11, Massachusetts.

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 fun books being made into movies

Give these stories a read (or reread!) before they hit the big screen.

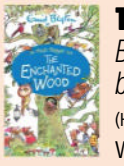


The Bad Guys in Mission Unpluckable

By Aaron Blabey

(Scholastic Press)

In the second book in The Bad Guys series, the team wants to rescue 10,000 chickens that are kept in cages at a farm. They face many mishaps while trying to accomplish their mission. A film based on the book is expected to premiere in August. *Ages 6–10*



The Enchanted Wood

By Enid Blyton, illustrated by Jan McCafferty

(Hodder Children's Books)

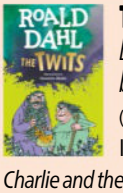
When Joe, Beth, and Frannie move to the countryside, they discover the Enchanted Wood. When they climb the magical tree in the center, it takes them to exciting lands. The story is part of The Magic Faraway series, which is being adapted into a movie for release later this year. *Ages 6–9*

How to Train Your Dragon

By Cressida Cowell

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

A live-action movie loosely based on the first book in this fantasy series roars into theaters on June 13. Hiccup, a young Viking, must train a dragon to join the clan that his father leads. He forms a deep connection with the dragon and discovers that dragons are deeply misunderstood. *Ages 7 and up*



The Twits

By Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

(Viking Books for Young Readers)

In this story by the author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, a mean couple plays tricks on each other and the animals near their house. Fortunately, the animals are smarter than the couple. An animated film adaptation of the story is set to be released on Netflix on June 13. *Ages 6–10*

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: RUCKER MOSES; GETTY IMAGES

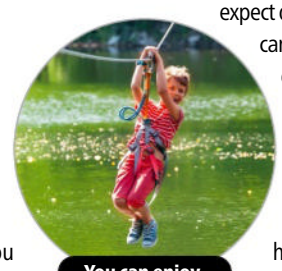
Have a great time at camp

Get the most of this special summer experience with a few helpful tips.

Summer camp offers an opportunity to have fun while exploring your favorite activities, participating in new ones, making friends, and becoming more independent. Whether you're planning to attend day camp or sleepaway camp, it's normal to feel nervous about going to a new place. Here are a few ideas to help you get off to a good start.

Practice before you go

To get ready for camp, you can try out some of the experiences at home. Pick a weekend morning to set an alarm to wake up early. Practice packing a bag, then rehearse a quick pretend goodbye with your family. If you're planning to attend sleepaway camp, you can talk to a parent about staying overnight at the home of a friend or relative to get experience before you go.


You can enjoy new adventures!

Pack like a pro

Pick a bag to use for camp every day, like a water-resistant backpack. The camp should have a packing list. Print it out and check off items as you gather them. They may include sunscreen, bug repellent, a swimsuit and towel, a hat, and a refillable water bottle. Be sure to label everything with your name. Plan to bring comfortable clothes and shoes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Settle in

When you get to camp, you'll likely spend the early part of the day meeting your counselors and the campers in your unit. You may need to take a basic swim test. Your counselors will outline safety rules and tell you what to expect during your stay. You might learn that your camp has fun traditions, like roasting s'mores over a campfire or singing camp songs.

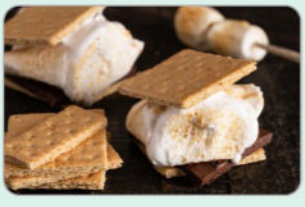
Participate in activities

You'll have many activities to choose from at camp, and some may be new to you. They could include canoeing, horseback riding, or zip-lining. This is a chance to become more skilled at something you love or to discover a new hobby. Take part in as many activities as you can.

Stay positive

Keep in mind that it might take a few days to adjust to your new routine and make friends. Once you have, remember to get their contact information before camp ends so you can keep in touch all year long—and get excited to see them again next summer!

Make tasty s'mores



S'mores are a summer staple. Here's how to enjoy your own.

Gather the basics. **You'll need marshmallows, a chocolate candy bar, and graham crackers.**

Toast to perfection. **A campfire or firepit is great for roasting marshmallows. With adult supervision, push your marshmallow onto the tip of a long roasting stick, then rotate it over the fire for even toasting.**

Sandwich it. **Keeping your toasted marshmallow on the stick, place it on a cracker with a piece of chocolate. Top it with another cracker. Holding the crackers together like a sandwich, slowly pull out the stick, then eat your s'more!**

Stir up pasta with broccoli pesto

Ingredients

- Kosher salt
- 5 cups roughly cut broccoli florets and stalks (from 1 large head)
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 1 clove garlic, pressed
- 3 scallions, light green and white parts only, chopped
- ⅓ cup pine nuts
- ⅓ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound pasta (like spaghetti or fettuccine)
- Red pepper flakes, for serving

Instructions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the broccoli and boil gently for 3 minutes.

2. With an adult, remove ⅓ of the broccoli using a slotted spoon. Let cool, then chop finely. Set aside. Boil remaining broccoli for 1 minute.

3. Turn off the heat, and scoop out ¼ cup of the broccoli water and set aside. Using a slotted spoon, scoop out the remaining broccoli and put it in the blender. (Excess water is OK.)

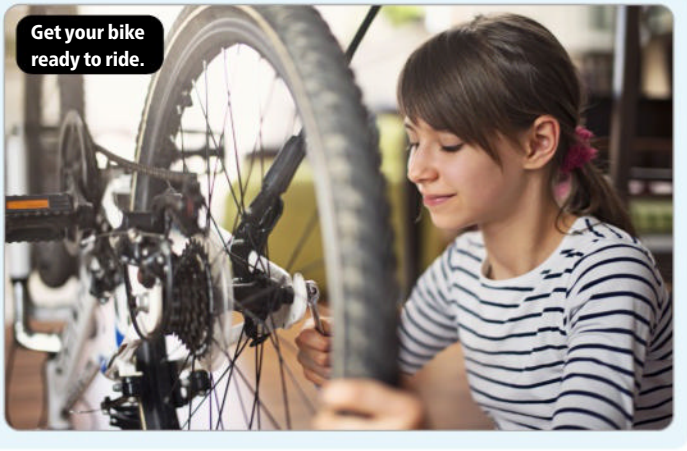
4. Add olive oil, garlic, scallions, pine nuts, Parmesan, lemon juice, 2 tablespoons of reserved broccoli water, and salt and pepper to blender. Blend until saucy but pourable. Add broccoli water as needed to reach the consistency you desire.

5. Bring the pot of broccoli water back to a boil. Add the pasta and cook until al dente (firm) according to the package directions.

6. Drain the pasta, then drizzle in a little olive oil to prevent sticking. Return the pasta to the pot and toss in the pesto until coated. Serve with red pepper flakes and the reserved chopped broccoli. Serves 4.

LIFE HACK GIVE YOUR BICYCLE A QUICK TUNE-UP

With the weather warming up and days having more light, it's a great time of year to be out riding your bike. Make sure yours is ready to roll by giving it a tune-up. With an adult's help, first check that your tires are properly inflated, which will give you a safer, smoother ride. Next, test your brake levers to make sure the bike stops easily. Pay attention to the chain. A thin layer of chain lubricant will keep it in good shape and prevent rust. Hop on the seat and make sure the height is comfortable—especially if you've grown since last year—and adjust it if necessary. Look over your bike for any loose bolts or missing reflectors. Wear a bike helmet, follow the rules of the road, and you're good to go!



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Crisscross

Each of these words associated with ice cream fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters
DIP

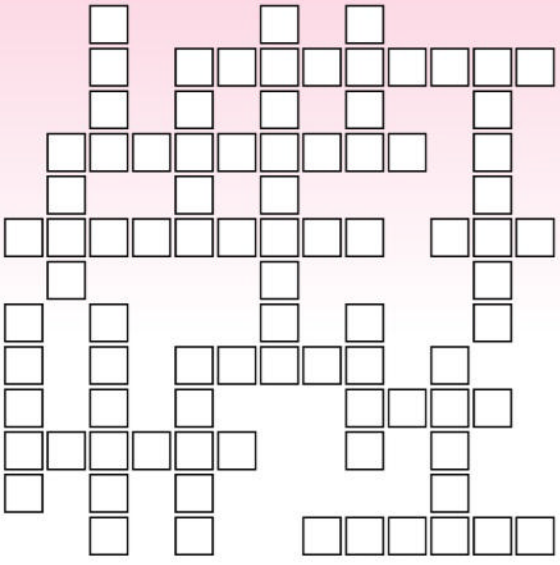
4 letters
CONE
DRIP
LICK
MELT
SHOP

5 letters
CHIPS
FLOAT
FUDGE
SAUCE
SCOOP

6 letters
CARTON
CHERRY
RIPPLE

7 letters
TOPPING

9 letters
CHOCOLATE
ROCKY ROAD
SOFT SERVE
SPRINKLES



Take five

Five 5-letter things seen at a theater are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

L	X	S	T	E
A	S	B	G	R
E	T	H	L	Y
S	O	I	E	S
U	I	A	B	E

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters B-I-N. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. Good device for birdwatching — BIN _ _ _ _ _ _ _
2. Dish storage spot sometimes above the kitchen sink — _ _ BIN _ _
3. Water pipes below the kitchen sink — _ _ _ _ BIN _
4. Kind of notebook for keeping loose pages together — BIN _ _ _
5. Legendary outlaw who robbed from the rich and gave to the poor — _ _ BIN _ _ _ _

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

6					1
5				3	
	4		6		
		6		2	
	5				2
3					4

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a girl feeding a goat appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

All the same hint: The third word begins with P.

Holly was feline fine on her big day.

Cat has a coming-of-age party

Holly the cat turned 15 in style. This was no ordinary party—owner Miranda Gonzalez had been planning it since Holly was a kitten. It was a quinceañera, a special 15th birthday celebration for girls in Latin American cultures. Wearing a dress and crown, Holly made a grand entrance in a remote-controlled car. A mariachi band also played. "I really wanted to go all out to celebrate my love for her," Gonzalez said. The event raised money for a local animal rescue, whose director said, "We have been blessed."

Ready, set, Lego!

Race car ritual gets a playful twist

Formula One racing got creative for this year's drivers' parade at the Miami Grand Prix. Instead of waving to fans from trucks, the drivers drove full-size cars made out of Lego bricks. "I couldn't believe it at first," said four-time champion Carlos Sainz. Each car took three weeks to build, using a steel frame and about 400,000 bricks. Weighing about 3,000 pounds, the vehicles maxed out at a speed of 12 miles per hour. Still, driver Lando Norris said, "This feels better than the real thing."

Seems like a lot to handle!

A gripping finger-pulling contest

About 180 people participated in a fingerhakeln (finger wrestling) contest in Germany last month. The popular sport features two competitors dressed in traditional attire who hook their middle fingers through a leather loop, then try to pull their opponent toward them. Strict rules are followed to ensure safety. Last year, two men told The Guardian they lift 115-pound concrete blocks with their fingers to prepare. Competitor Maximilian Woelfl said he makes sure he has "a well-trained finger."

Are birds bundling up?

Nanas knit for chilly penguins

When a group of grandmothers in the UK heard about penguins shivering with cold during the windy winters on Australia's Phillip Island, they wanted to help. Calling themselves the Knitting Nanas, the women began making sweaters to keep the birds warm as temperatures drop in the southern land, where winter takes place from June to August. One nana said that although she has made sweaters for her children, she had "never knit for a penguin" before. Is this story real, or are we spinning a yarn?*

*Fake! The penguins aren't cold, but the Knitting Nanas are helping them. Rescue workers put the sweaters on penguins so they won't preen (clean their feathers) and swallow toxic chemicals after swimming near an oil spill.

MIRANDA GONZALEZ; GETTY IMAGES (2); HILLCARE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Editor's note

The Week Junior team is getting set to celebrate World Oceans Day on June 8 (p3). Sponsored by the United Nations (UN), it's a day to raise awareness around the world of the importance of our oceans and the need to protect them. The theme for this year's event is "Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us." As the UN explains on its website at unworldoceansday.org, "Wonder is the foundation of scientific knowledge, the allure behind exploration, the curiosity that drives innovation, and the seed of traditional wisdom." It's a force that inspires all of us to learn about the world. I hope you enjoy reading our news article about this special global event, as well as our feature about one of the most fascinating creatures under the sea: jellyfish (p12). And if you take action to help protect the oceans, we'd love to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

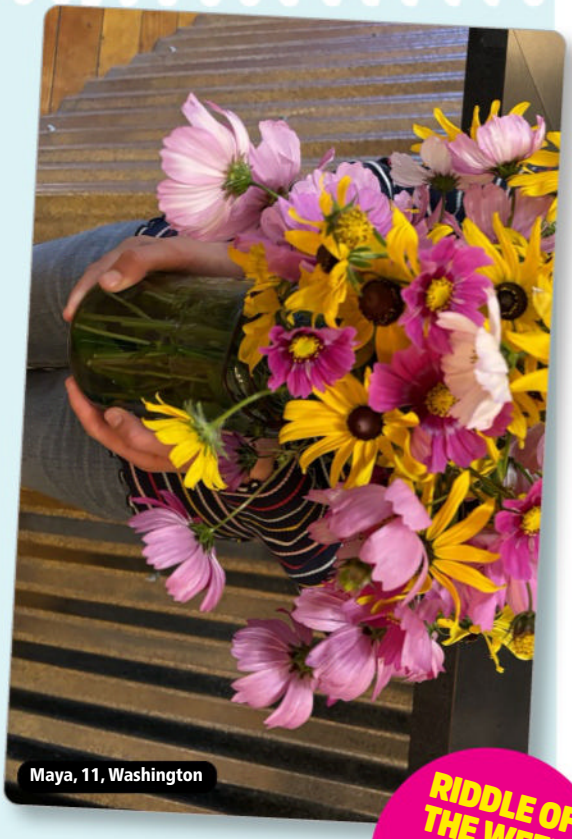
CHARITY OF THE WEEK

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

This organization's goal is to empower people with multiple sclerosis (MS, a condition that affects the nervous system) to lead fulfilling lives. In addition to connecting people to resources and support groups, it also raises funds to help find a cure for MS. Founded more than 75 years ago, the group reaches more than 8.6 million people each year. Find out more at nationalmssociety.org.

A flowery fundraiser

"Last summer, when my close friend found out she had a rare illness, I wanted to do something more meaningful than getting her a card. My mom and I decided to host a fundraiser by selling beautiful wildflowers that grow in our meadow. We advertised our flowers and delivered about 25 bouquets. We raised $1,000 in less than two weeks. I was so surprised by how generous people were. My friend was very grateful, and her family used the money to cover a large medical expense. I want to continue organizing flower fundraisers like this every summer for more people in need."



Maya, 11, Washington

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What lives in a bed but never sleeps?
Flowers

Meet your favorite authors

On June 12 at 7 p.m. ET, the editors of *The Week Junior* will be hosting a special virtual event for families! We will be kicking off our 2025 Summer of Reading program with a panel discussion featuring four acclaimed middle-grade authors who have exciting books coming out this summer. Attendees can discover how their favorite authors come up with story ideas, illustrate their work, and more. You can RSVP for this free event and learn more about it at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-AuthorEvent. We hope to see you there!

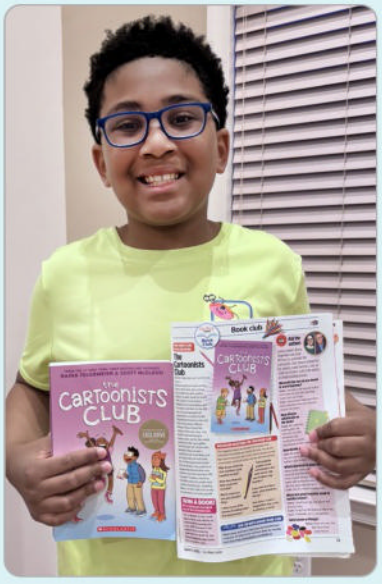
2025 Summer of Reading
THE WEEK Junior

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I loved *The Cartoonists Club* because I want to write my own graphic novel one day." Trey, 8, Maryland

"It was fun making the chicken noodle soup from *The Week Junior*!" Harrison, 10, Michigan

"I want to make history someday like Jonny Kim, the first Korean American astronaut who went to space." Rayna, 8, Texas

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Allison Fried**

School: **Beresford Elementary**

"I love being in Mrs. Fried's class because she shows us how much she cares about us every day. She started something called 'Lunch Bunch,' where she meets with a few of us in her classroom every Friday so we can talk and get to know each other more. She gives me harder and more interesting math problems to challenge me, and she was my pen pal over the summer."

Ella, 6, California

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

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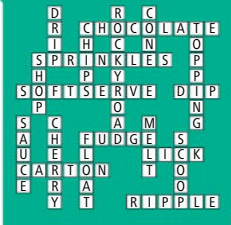
Puzzle answers (from page 26)



D			R		C
R		C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E
I		H		C	N			O		
S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E	S		P
H		P		Y						P
S	O	F	T	S	E	R	V	E		D	I	P
P				O						N		
S		C		A		M				G		
A		H		F	U	D	G	E		S		
U		E		L				L	I	C	K	
C	A	R	T	O	N			T		O		
E		R		A						O		
		Y		T		R	I	P	P	L	E	

Take five
lobby
aisle
exits
stage
usher

All the same
1. binoculars
2. cabinet
3. plumbing
4. binder
5. Robin Hood

6	2	3	5	4	1
5	1	4	2	3	6
2	4	5	6	1	3
1	3	6	4	2	5
4	5	1	3	6	2
3	6	2	1	5	4

Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** Donkey Kong Bananza **2** True **3** c) 95% **4** True **5** b) Ottawa Charge **6** Perry **7** False. Humans heal more slowly than other mammals. **8** a) Carbon dioxide **9** c) 39 **10** False. Goats showed better problem-solving skills. **11** Skateboard **12** True **13** France **14** a) Maryland **15** c) 400,000

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What is the name of the upcoming Donkey Kong game for the Nintendo Switch 2?

2 True or false? It costs the US Mint nearly four cents to make a penny.

True ☐ False ☐

3 About how much of a jellyfish's body is made of water?

a) 25% b) 50% c) 95%

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? Country singer Kelsea Ballerini's fifth studio album, *Patterns*, was written entirely by women.

True ☐ False ☐

5 Which women's hockey team did the Minnesota Frost defeat to win their second straight PWHL title?

a) Montreal Victoire

b) Ottawa Charge

c) Toronto Sceptres

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 In the cartoon series *Phineas and Ferb*, what is the name of the pet platypus who is a secret agent?

7 True or false? Scientists discovered that humans heal faster than other mammals.

True ☐ False ☐

8 The Biomass space probe will scan forests to measure their storage of which type of gas?

a) Carbon dioxide

b) Hydrogen

c) Helium

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

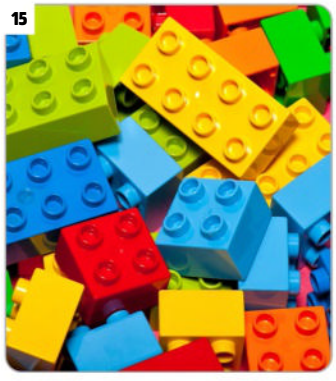
6

3

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

1

15



14

9 How many wooden boards does a standard bowling lane have?

a) 19

b) 29

c) 39

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? In a new study, sheep were shown to have better problem-solving skills than goats.

True ☐ False ☐

11 In the book *Encounter at Owl Rock*, the characters go to an abandoned water park to do what?

12 True or false? The number of independently owned bookstores in the US has more than doubled since 2016.

True ☐ False ☐

13 The World Oceans Day flag-raising ceremony is set to take place on June 8 in which country?

14 Kermit the Frog recently gave a graduation speech at which university?

a) Maryland

b) Michigan

c) Minnesota

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 How many Lego bricks were used to create each car in the Miami Grand Prix drivers' parade?

a) 4,000

b) 40,000

c) 400,000

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 3, January 10, July 11, and September 12. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior*, PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

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DISNEY; NINTENDO; GETTY IMAGES (3)

From the Editorial Director of

THE WEEK Junior

You might have seen the news that we are launching a new app!

To our subscriber families,

This week, COSMO Technologies and The Week Junior announced a partnership that brings the excitement and engagement of The Week Junior to an app that will run exclusively on the COSMO JrTrack smartwatch for kids.

This collaboration brings The Week Junior's award-winning content, created for children ages 8–14, to a brand-new format. Each week, the app will feature a curated selection of news, features, debates, and fun facts adapted from the magazine.

The Week Junior is thoughtfully written and edited to achieve our mission of inspiring curiosity, wonder, and learning. With content created by the same editorial team, the app gives families a new way to open up the world for children wherever they are. We hope it fosters critical thinking, sparks conversations, and makes kids smile!

If your child owns a COSMO smartwatch, you can download The Week Junior app to their device today for free on COSMO's App Station. To learn more about COSMO watches and exclusive benefits for The Week Junior subscribers, please visit **cosmotogether.com/the-week-junior**.

Thank you, as always, for being a part of The Week Junior community as your child discovers the world.

Sincerely,

Andrea Barbalich

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director
The Week Junior

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR YOUR CLASS'S CHANCE TO WIN

OODLES OF doodles® DRINKS

COLOR US IN

A CASE OF OODLES OF DOODLES DRINKS AND A CLASSROOM SUBSCRIPTION TO *THE WEEK JUNIOR*

"Hi! I'm Millie Eason, and at the age of 13, I've done something that still feels absolutely incredible—I've helped create my own beverage company called Oodles of Doodles Drinks! You know how sometimes you have this brilliant idea that just won't leave your head? Well, that's exactly what happened with our fun, refreshing drinks. I'm really obsessed with our strawberry watermelon non-carbonated drink (it's absolutely dee-lish!), and our sparkling grape flavor is simply amazing!

The most brilliant part about being a co-founder is seeing our drinks sitting on store shelves—I still get butterflies every time I spot them! It's like watching your favorite drawing come to life—but better because you can actually drink it!

When I'm not busy creating new doodles or thinking up drink ideas, you'll find me on the soccer field. I absolutely love traveling around for matches—it's really exciting! What's especially cool is how both soccer and running a business teach you similar things—like working on a team and never giving up, even when things get challenging!"

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